



NEWS RELEASE

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
Public Works Department
Water Resources Division

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Fall Term Provides Water-wise Classes

SANTA BARBARA, CA – AUGUST 23, 2011 -- This is the traditional time of year to think education, and water-wise programs offer fun ways to learn about water conservation, both in the garden and in the classroom. The City of Santa Barbara Water Conservation Program helps sponsor classes for sustainable gardening and offers water education programs for local students.

You can start the fall planting season off right by enrolling in the Green Gardener class series which begins Wednesday, August 24th from 2:30-5:00 at the Schott Center, room 31. The Green Gardener Program educates local gardeners in resource efficient and pollution prevention landscape maintenance practices. The class series is offered through the Santa Barbara City College Continuing Education Division. There is a materials fee of \$35 and anyone is eligible to take the class, simply show up on the first day to sign up. For more info, visit www.greengardener.org or call 683-8260.

Another water-wise class series currently being offered in Santa Barbara is the Surfrider Foundation's Ocean Friendly Gardens Program which provides education and

hands-on training in establishing gardens that apply “CPR”: **C**onservation of natural resources, **P**ermeability of soils, and **R**etention of rainfall. The next class in the series is the free Hands-on Workshop on Sunday, September 11th at Spencer Adams Park, 1216 De la Vina Street, from 10:00 - 1:00. The workshop is led by G3, the Green Gardens Group, and will evaluate the site for water use and runoff, create an OFG “irrigation budget,” determine rainwater harvest potential, and develop design concepts. This Hands-on Workshop will be followed on other dates by a day-long training for professionals, a Garden Workday, and a Neighborhood Walk. For more information on the series, or to sign up for the Hands-on Workshop, email SantaBarbaraOFG@gmail.com or visit www.OceanFriendlyGardens.org.

Not to forget our youngest water users, the City also provides water education to local K-6 students through school presentations about the importance of water, the water cycle, where water comes from, and water conservation. In addition, tours to the El Estero Wastewater Treatment plant are offered to 3rd-12th graders, but only the brave are able to enter the plant’s dreaded “stinky tank.” For more information on the City’s youth water education programs, visit www.SaveWaterSB.org or call 897-2672.

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